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- the broadcasting of digital television signals;
  - the broadcasting of audio-digital signals;
  - radio telephony;
  - the transmission of data signals.
- 

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

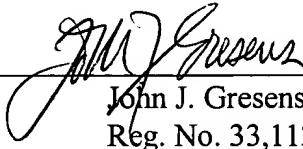
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

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By

  
John J. Gresens  
Reg. No. 33,112

JJG/tvm

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3. (Amended) Reception device according to [any of the claims 1 and 2] claim 1, characterized in that said adapted estimated value is computed as follows:

$$\hat{x}_{Adap,n} = \left( \sum_{i=1}^N cnfd_{i,n} \times \hat{x}_{i,n} \right) / \left( \sum_{i=1}^N cnfd_{i,n} \right)$$

where:

$\hat{x}_n$  is the estimated value of the symbol received on the path  $i$ ;

$cnfd_{i,n}$  is the corresponding path confidence information element; and

$N$  is the number of paths.

4. (Amended) Reception device according to [any of the claims 1 to 3] claim 1, characterized in that, said adaptive confidence information element is computed as follows:

$$cnfd_{Adap,n} = \sum_{i=1}^N cnfd_{i,n}$$

where:

$cnfd_{i,n}$  is the confidence information element associated with the path  $i$ ; and

$N$  is the number of paths.

5. (Amended) Reception device according to [any of the claims 1 to 4] claim 1, characterized in that it implements at least two antennas ( $101_1$ ,  $101_2$ ), supplying distinct reception paths.

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6. (Amended) Reception device according to [any of the claims 1 to 5] claim 1, characterized in that each of said reception paths comprises a first module shaping and demodulating the received signal and a second module determining said estimated path values and said corresponding confidence information elements, said device furthermore comprising a single module supplied by said second modules, and providing especially for the combination (11) delivering said adapted estimated values and a weighted-input decoding (12) supplied by said adapted estimated values.

8. (Amended) Use of a device and/or of the method according to [any of the claims 1 to 6] claim 1 and/or of the method [according to claim 7] for the reception of a multicarrier signal, formed by a set of carrier frequencies transmitted simultaneously, implementing at least two reception paths supplied with data flows, each conveying the same source symbols, each of said paths implementing a step of estimation of the transmission channel associating, with each source symbol received, an estimated path value and a corresponding path confidence information element, a source symbol being conveyed by a subset of said set of carrier frequencies, characterized in that it comprises:

- a combination step delivering:
- an adapted estimated value, obtained from said estimated path values in taking account of said path confidence information to weight said estimated path values ; and
- an adapted confidence information element with each of said adapted estimated values, as a function of said path confidence information elements,

- a step of weighted-input decoding, supplied by said adapted estimated values, for the reception of data belonging to at least one of the following applications:
- the broadcasting of digital television signals;
- the broadcasting of audio-digital signals;
- radio telephony;
- the transmission of data signals.

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